

## Home Preparation Checklist

To get the best return on your home, you need to make your home look its best. Here's the checklist that will help you do it.

### Inside Your Home

#### **Floor Coverings (carpeting, tile, linoleum, hardwood, etc.)**

- Dirt or stains?
- Excessive wear or damage?
- Area rugs clean and stain-free?

#### **Walls and Ceilings**

- Dirt, fingerprints or other stains?
- Nail cracks or tape residue?
- Cracks, chips, water damage?
- Need for repainting or new wallpaper?
- Neutral, light colours for roomy environment?

#### **Doors**

- Dirt, fingerprints or other stains?
- Need new paint?
- Open/close easily without squeaks?
- Latches/handles secure and working properly?

#### **Windows**

- Glass sparkling clean; chip, paint and crack free?
- Open/close easily?
- Latches/handles/locks secure, working properly?
- Dirt and fingerprints on frames or sills?
- Screens clean and without holes?
- Storm windows in good condition?

#### **Window Coverings (curtains, drapes, blinds, etc.)**

- Dirt or stains?
- Excessive wear or sun damage?
- Open/close easily; hardware working properly?

#### **Lighting (lighting makes a room feel more inviting)**

- All bulbs working and proper wattage?
- Broken switches, exposed wiring?
- Table and floor lamps working properly?

### **Pet Areas**

- Clean, organized, odour-free?

### **Entryways and Hallways**

- Clean and free of clutter or obstructions? Welcome mat(s) clean and inviting?

### **Closets and Storage Areas**

- Clean and well organized?
- Clutter and excess junk removed?
- Clothes hung neatly and not jammed together?
- Shoes and boots neatly stored/stacked?

### **Kitchen**

- Every surface sparkling clean?
- Counter-tops organized, all but daily use appliances?
- Refrigerator spotless inside and out?
- Organized? Spoiled food discarded?
- Frost removed? Light bulbs working? (Buyers look!)
- Oven/stove-top clean? Burner trays cleaned?
- Sinks clean; faucets working properly and leak-free?
- Garbage disposal in good working condition?
- Cupboards/pantry spotless, organized?
- Dishwasher clean and stain-free?

### **Living Room/Dining Room/Bedrooms/Den/Study**

- Everything thoroughly vacuumed/dusted?
- Excess furniture removed for roomier atmosphere?
- Remaining furniture clean and in good repair?
- Wood and other surfaces clean and polished?
- Bookshelves neat, organized and clutter-free?
- Children's games/toys stored neatly?
- Fragile items removed and stored?
- Smaller valuables removed/locked away?
- Window coverings open for views and sunlight?
- Mirrors clean and in good repair?
- Ashtrays cleaned and kept out of sight?
- Fireplace clean, log/kindling stacked neatly?

### **Bathrooms/Powder Room**

- Every surface sparkling clean?
- Countertops clean, free of clutter? Fresh soap?
- Sinks spotlessly clean; faucets working properly and leak-free?
- Tub and shower surfaces clean?
- Towels stain-free and hanging neatly?
- Shower curtain clean and in good repair?
- Toilet extra clean and working properly?
- Closets organized and clutter-free?
- Medicine cabinet clean, "personal items" removed?

### **Basement/Furnace Room/Garage/Attic/Storeroom**

- Clean and well organized?
- Clutter and excess "junk" removed?
- Remaining items stored/stacked neatly?
- Everything thoroughly vacuumed/dusted?

### **Outside Your Home Structures**

- Exterior surfaces clean, in good condition?
- Front door exterior clean, inviting?
- Eaves troughs and downspouts clean, in good repair?
- Gates open/close properly; hardware working?
- Fences/decks in good repair, in good condition?
- Sidewalks and walkways in good repair? Driveway clean, in good repair?

### **Yard and Environment**

- Driveways, sidewalks clear of snow, ice?
- Lawns mowed/edged regularly; large bare spots repaired?
- Leaves removed from lawns and flower beds? Trees pruned, hedges trimmed?